

House Bill 47
January 11, 2011
Presented by Joe Maurier
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee

Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Joe Maurier, Director of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). I am here in support of House Bill 47.

Currently, 47 states and the District of Columbia have some kind of free fishing day program in which no fishing license is required by general anglers for at least one day and up to several weekends per year. These 'Free-Fishing-Days' have generally been established in order to promote family fishing and to give non-anglers a no-cost opportunity to try out the sport of fishing. There is good potential for those who partake to be recruited to the ranks of license buying anglers. Alaska, Connecticut and Montana are the only states which do not have a 'Free-Fishing-Day' as such. House Bill 47 seeks to establish one day each year, the first Saturday in June*, which a fishing license would not be required to fish in Montana for both residents and nonresidents. Special tags or licenses required to fish for certain fish species or by certain methods would still be required, as well as all fishing regulations would still apply, for those uses on Free Fishing Day.

*Free-Fishing-Day in adjacent states follows:

ID	2nd SAT in June	-	both resident and nonresident
WY	1st SAT in June	-	both resident and nonresident
SD	Wknd prior to Memorial Day	-	both resident and nonresident
ND	1st SAT and SUN in June	-	resident only